

The Dee Family Home

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The design brief was to design a unique and creative home for the Dee family in a mid-century modern design style of architecture. I began my design process by learning about my clients and what they wanted me to include in the design, (go through page by page) I then travelled to the site to see how the block of land is and what could be the potential of some future designs. I drew up a few hand drawn floorplans to further my thoughts to then transferring my rough sketches to AutoCAD to have a clean finished floorplan. I then brought the designs to life in SketchUp which allowed me to see what my three designs would look like on a computer-generated 3D model to further into Lumion which made it possible to make my model look realistic. Once all the planning was done, I made a 3D model with a 3D printer and made a scaled down version of my design. I presented my clients with 3 different planning forms which was the Floorplans, Realistic rendered images and a 3D model. I took on this project because the landscape was challenging and fun, I liked the idea of challenging myself with a tough landscape as the land was unique and you wouldn't always think about designing a house where I have.

I used innovation with 3D modelling which I hadn't used before which allowed me to create a detailed finish with the model instead of using foam board which doesn't always turn out the best a I also used historical design movements to create a more exclusive design. I found this property while I was browsing realestate.com and the property spoke to me, I was quickly drawn to its quirky, special shape of land with the tumbling hills and large valley. I was most inspired by mid-century designers such as, Richard Neutra and John Lautner and brutalist designers such as, Luciano Kurk and Ludwig Godefroy. I focused on these styles of design because of how they incorporated their designs with the nature surrounding the building. When viewing my design, you can see the inspiration used from Luciano Kurk with the staggering floor levels shooting off in different directions and Richard Neutra with the dark natural colours that provide privacy on the entrance of the design.

My works are creative and unique as I fulfilled the design process myself from start to finish. As I took on two roles as an architect and a drafter which involved me designing and creating a house and then looking more technically into the way the house would work in real life. I spent extensive time developing my skills in AutoCAD, SketchUp, Lumion and 3D Modelling. In particular I spent a lot of time learning AutoCAD which is used by professional architects, I hadn't used AutoCAD prior to this task but am pleased with the skills I learnt to produce a finalised floorplan. I experienced the most success with SketchUp where I focused on architectural elements in structural design and working on designs that can be transferred well into real life.

The 3D model I created confirms that it can work in real life. As stated previously all the programs I used were industry standard and therefore cannot be improved. In the future I would like to experiment with REVIT and incorporating video walk throughs to present to the clients which would provide an immersive experience.

My philosophy would be for the owner or guest to feel torn away from the commercialisation of the city and the mass production of cookie cutter builds. My journey was rocky at times, as I experienced frustrations from learning complex programs and was self-taught a lot of the skills, I had to use for my practicals which felt like a waste of time but I am very glad I learnt these skills so I could produce a more professional finish for the final product, I also gained some knowledge from architect, David Handsaker with REVIT which I was shown how to use but not properly enough for me to use in my final product.

I learnt some valuable skills for my future career choice where I will use lots of CAD programs. When I build my own house in the future, I will be able to use the skills I have learnt from this folio to help me design a house of my own. Covid didn't allow me to extend myself to the fullest of my abilities as it took away time from learning new opportunities to present in other ways.